

(sec. 13) in that behalf; and further, that inasmuch as the said pipes are fixed on the inside of the building nearer than 14 inches to timber, the same are contrary to the said Act; but being of opinion that no danger can arise from the said steam-pipes, which are not inclosed, and are nowhere less than their own diameter distant from timber or other combustible material, we defer to make any direction in respect thereof, so long as the same are used for their present purpose only, and not for the business of japanning leather, or any other purpose requiring greater heat.

UNIFORMITY OF TIME.

THE SUN BEING CORRECTED.

SIR.—Several weeks ago I read in your paper some very sensible remarks on the proposal to establish a literal uniformity in all the clocks of Great Britain. I was in hopes that you would have returned to the subject, but I have not seen any further observations from your pen upon it. The notion, however, is, it seems, still entertained and advocated, and even to a certain extent carried into execution: could you find space for a short protest against one of the most foolish and ignorant pieces of quackery that I ever heard seriously suggested?

Which is said about the convenience of having the same time all over the country. No doubt this would be convenient in some respects, if it were possible; but unfortunately it is absolutely impossible. Unfortunately, it so happens that the earth takes twenty-four hours to revolve on its axis, and therefore the time at any two spots on its surface (not in the same meridian) cannot be the same: why then call it so? Calling it noon at Bristol at ten minutes to twelve will not make it so, and cannot make it so: it is simply false. Time is a fact, just as much as space, and just as local in its nature; we might as well insist on saying that Bristol is at the longitude of Greenwich, as on saying that it is noon at Bristol when it is noon at Greenwich.

It is only the smallness of England that prevents every one from seeing the entire absurdity of this proposal. Let us imagine it carried to its full extent (and all the arguments for it as applied to this country are just as strong, nay stronger, for its application to the whole world, were it practicable)—let us imagine, I say, one (nominal) time established all over the earth, so that at one place it should be called noon at midnight, at another at sunrise, at another at sunset? Every one will start from the folly, the nonsense, in fact, of such a childish attempt to “annihilate both space and time” by Act of Parliament: but because it is only a matter of a few minutes in England, the *reductio ad absurdum* is not so glaring, although the principle, of course, must be the same, whether the variation be great or small.

Even the convenience of the plan I never could see. True, it is convenient now for a traveller to know at Bristol what is the London time, because the railway bills are made out by London time; but I could never see why they should be so. Why should not the arrivals of the trains be marked in the bills in the real, i.e., the local time? Why should everybody be forced either to have his watch wrong, or to make a sum whenever he wants to be at a station in time? I can see no reason, except that the present plan saves the persons who make out the railway time-tables and the guards the trouble (too great trouble either) of allowing for the difference between travelling east or west. The convenience of being able to regulate all clocks from Greenwich by electric telegraph has been insisted on; but to attain that it is not necessary to have false time; the true difference between Greenwich and any other place being known, the clocks can be regulated accordingly.

Nothing can be really convenient which is contrary to truth, to principle, and to common sense: and I feel satisfied that numerous practical inconveniences (not perhaps all yet discovered) must attend the working of this precious plan, to say nothing of it making us the laughing-stock of every scientific man in Europe. We pride ourselves in being a people who “know what’s o’clock,” but the favour with which this project has been received makes it but too plain that we do not even understand the meaning of the words.

Instead of this agitation for (so-called) uniformity, I wish you, or any other sensible persons, would get up an agitation for truth and reason, and make at once the *quietus* of this proposed nuisance, which, for the ignorance, the wrongheadedness, the utter confusion of ideas that it betrays, is quite a disgrace to the nineteenth century.—I am, Sir, &c.,
Greenwich, Dec. 31, 1847. CHRONOS.

SANITARIAL STATE OF WARE, HERTS.

In November last a committee of the parishioners was appointed to examine and report on the condition of Ware, and the best means of putting it in a proper state of cleanliness. After a most careful examination, the vicar, Mr. Blakesley, taking as in duty bound a most active part in it, they last week brought up a report on the first part of the inquiry, and will speedily follow it up with a second, containing recommendations. The result of the survey has been “to bring under their notice more than 450 tenements, the occupants of which are suffering from the operation of one or more influences, notorious for their effect in shortening life and generating or aggravating disease of an infectious character. Of these 450, no less than 329 labour under more than one of the evils referred to, and 38 of the number are affected by the whole of them. Reckoning the low average of only four persons for each tenement, there results no less than 1,800 human beings living obviously exposed to preventible causes of disease, which, if originating among them, may easily spread to the remaining part of the population;” and this in a town containing not quite 5,000 persons.

The causes of disease alluded to are—1. Defective surface-drainage. 2. Defective refuse-drainage. 3. Proximity to extraneous accumulations of decomposing substances. And 4. Insufficient accommodation for purposes of cleanliness.

It is to be hoped that the committee will proceed vigorously in effecting the removal of the evils. The necessity must be tolerably clear to every inhabitant after reading the following passage in the report:—

“An analysis of the burial register in the parish church has shewn that whereas during the ten years ending with 1837, the average duration of human life in Ware was 33½ years: during the ten years ending with 1847 it has sunk to 31½ years—being a diminution of more than five per cent. in the length of life, and this although one of the years in the former period (1831) was distinguished by an extraordinary mortality, no less than 134 persons (of whom 79 were under five years) having been buried in the churchyard, and the average age having been in that year brought down to 17½ years.”

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The “Elder Brethren of the Trinity” are threatening to desecrate the Nelson column at Yarmouth, by lighting it up as a beacon,—warning all and sundry, we presume, and our trans-channel rivals in particular, that as they are right in alleging that Britannia no longer “rules the waves,” straight across the Channel at least, we think it of no use longer keeping up a mere show of respect for those who once helped her to do so. The “Elder Brethren of the Trinity,” however, were scarcely those who might have been expected to throw such a light upon the memory of other days;—but the proposal is one by which the immense sum of one hundred and fifty pounds may be saved, and “two dougs killed w’ a’ stane,” as the Glasgow Baillie sagaciously remarked while proposing to make the “moniment o’ Nelson” there “a mile stane too.” This singular propensity to make monuments to Nelson subservient to some other or secondary purpose, and thus to stamp their original one with obloquy, as more or less unworthy of standing alone in the face of day (or night either, it now appears) is not confined to Yarmouth and Glasgow alone. At Edinburgh the Nelson column is sacred to the memory of “every thing in the confectionary line,”—and, indeed, it is a gimcrack concern itself, such as those of the inverted spy-glass order which we see even surmounting rounded eminences within the Taafy shop itself, of which it is at

Edinburgh the well-known “sign.” But we dare say there is no fear of the Charing-cross “moniment” being at least converted into “a mile stane too,” by any thing like disrespectful inscriptions, for, doubtless, the restrictive order to “stick no bills,” may, by a very fair stretch of signification, be held to comprehend either type or chisel within its sweep. We are not so sure, however, after all, that the Yarmouth proposal would be disrespectful, at least so much as even the “Stick no bills” at Trafalgar-square has no long, by inference, been. It was proposed, even as a matter of respect to Caston, that his monument should be lighted up, and certainly, considering the uses of lighthouses in guarding our mercantile Navy, and in warning all and sundry, and even the French, against too near an approach to its coasts, the mere lighting up of a monument to Nelson on these coasts, were the unworthy motive kept out of view, might even be made to assume the aspect of an opportune revival of that merited respect with which few of Nelson’s monuments seem to have hitherto been treated.

—The church of Methwold, Norfolk, the spire of which is a noted landmark for many miles, not by water exactly, but over the fen district, has been restored interiorly in its wood-work, and deprived of its whitewash. An unsightly gallery has been removed, and the western arch, and windows of the steeple restored to view, and open seats for 500 provided.—In the restoration of the carved work in Lincoln Cathedral, the Dean and Chapter are voting annually between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.*—St. Nent’s Church was to be re-opened on 12th inst., after six months’ progress in restoration and repair.—The Rev. William Conway, Curate of St. Nicholas, Rochester, has commenced the erection of a church at his own expense. The estimated cost is about 6,000*l.*, and he intends endowing it with the sum of 50*l.* per annum,—another of those proofs of liberal feeling amongst the clergy which we have so often the pleasure to record, and which we doubt not will lead to still further emulation equally commendable, though probably not among the precise class to which this rev. gentleman nominally belongs, and who unfortunately seldom have the power to display what such an instance may be held to represent the great good-will of even that class of clergy to do, had they but the power.—A stone font, in memory of the late rector of Darlaston, the Rev. S. Lowe, M.A., has been completed by Mr. P. Hollings, from a design by Mr. Hamilton, of Wolverhampton, architect, and erected in the church.—The Warwickshire Lunatic Asylum Committee have reported to the sessions their decision to erect an asylum for 300 patients, with power of extension, on land purchased of the Earl of Warwick, on a plan to be selected from others already obtained for consideration. At sessions the County Prisons Committee reported that Captain Chesterton, aided by Mr. D. R. Hill, architect, had surveyed the present buildings at Coventry and Warwick, and recommended, as the committee itself did, the erection of one new compound prison near Warwick, on Mr. Hill’s plan, for 350 prisoners, with power of extension. The report was ordered to be printed.—The Gloucester Lunatic Asylum is to be enlarged at the cost of 3,000*l.*—The arrangements for the disposal of the front portion of the St. Hotel, at Southampton, for the business of the Southampton County Court, have been completed, and Mr. Hack, the architect, is engaged in the design for the requisite alterations.

DOULTON’S EGG-SHAPED TUBES.—Mentioned Messrs. Doulton’s reply to a letter which appeared in our columns on this subject some time ago, but as they consider their denial was not put so prominently as the statement, we give place to the following:—

“Sir: In reference to the letter of Mr. Francis in a late number, we beg to observe that the registration obtained by us in October last was for egg-shaped sewers in glazed stoneware; that such sewers have not yet been made by any other parties than ourselves; and that if Mr. Francis, or any one else, infringe our right, we are quite prepared to defend it.—We are, Sir, &c.,

HENRY DOULTON AND CO.
Lambeth Pottery, December, 1847.”